

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the system comprising:

- a first television display, at a first home, to support the consumption of media;

- at least one first media peripheral, at the first home, for the production of media;

- a first storage, at the first home, for storing media, the first storage communicatively coupled to the first television display;

- a first set top box circuitry, at the first home, communicatively coupling the first television display and the at least one first media peripheral to the communication network, the first set top box circuitry having an associated first network address;

- a user interface, at the first home, having at least one view comprising a representation of at least one user defined media channel for the exchange of media;

- a second television display, at a second home, to support the consumption of media;

- a second set top box circuitry, at the second home, communicatively coupling the second television display to the communication

network, the second set top box circuitry having an associated second network address; and

server software that receives a request identifying one of the first and second associated network addresses, and that responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to support exchange of the media from the at least one first media peripheral to the second television display for consumption in a real time manner.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the associated first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one first media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and a MP3 player.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

at least one second media peripheral, at the second home, for the production of media; and

server software that receives a request identifying one of the first and second associated network addresses, and that responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to support exchange of the media from the at least one second media peripheral to the first television display for consumption in a real time manner.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the at least one second media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and a MP3 player.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein the exchange of the media from the at least one first media peripheral to the second television display, and the exchange of the media from the at least one second media peripheral to the first television display occur concurrently.

11. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

at least one sensor for detecting a condition, at the first home; and
the detection of the condition causing the initiation of a request to exchange media with the second home.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the at least one sensor comprises at least one of a door bell button, a passive infrared (PIR) motion detector, a microwave motion detector, a swimming pool water disturbance detector, a smoke detector, a fire detector, or other sensor suitable for the detection of conditions about a home.

13. A system supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the system comprising:

at least one media peripheral, at a first home, for the production of media;

a first set top box circuitry, at the first home, communicatively coupling the at least one media peripheral to the communication network;

a television display, at a second home, for the consumption of media;

a second set top box circuitry, at the second home, communicatively coupling the television display to the communication network;

a user interface, at the second home, having at least one view comprising a representation of at least one user defined media channel for the exchange of media; and

server software that receives a request, and that responds by coordinating an exchange of media from the at least one media peripheral to the second television display for consumption in a real time manner.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and a MP3 player.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.

18. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

at least one sensor for detecting a condition, at the first home; and
the detection of the condition causing the initiation of a request to exchange media with the second home.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one sensor comprises at least one of a door bell button, a passive infrared (PIR) motion detector, a microwave motion detector, a swimming pool water disturbance detector, a smoke detector, a fire detector, or other sensor suitable for the detection of conditions about a home.

20. A method of supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving input from a user, at a first location;
transmitting a request to exchange media, to a second location, via the communication network;
authenticating the first location to the second location;
receiving an acceptance from the second location; and
exchanging media in a real time manner, via the communication network, between the first location and the second location.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the user input is received via a user interface having at least one view comprising a representation of at least one user defined media channel for the exchange of media.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein the authenticating uses a digital certificate.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein the exchange of media is a concurrent two way exchange.